

CHAPTER 7 - CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

OVERVIEW

Children with a chronic illness or disability (i.e. asthma, diabetes, seizure disorder, HIV, chronic kidney disease, developmental delays, spinal bifida or cerebral palsy) may require a wide range of assistance with their special health care needs in order to attend school and continue their education. Special health services that these children might require from the school may include: medication administration, assistance with activities of daily living, individual and emergency health care plans, and coordinated interventions from school personnel, health care providers, and the child's family.

This section provides (1) a brief overview of the legal obligations for the school district in providing service for children who need special health care services and (2) guidelines for delivering some specific health services.

Currently, two laws directly affect children with special health care needs and those requiring special educational services in order to benefit from a free and appropriate education. Some children who have special health care needs require special education in addition to the health services. Some children with special health care needs only require related health services to be able to receive an appropriate education.

Children who need special education (because their disability makes it more difficult to learn) and related health care services may be eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. (IDEA). Children whose disability does not interfere with their ability to learn but require related aid or health care services in order to receive a comparable education to students without disabilities may be eligible to receive these services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504).